

REMARKS

Claims 1, 13, 17, and 18 have been amended. Claims 1-20 therefore are pending and are presented for review. Favorable reconsideration and allowance are requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the remarks which follow.

1. Interview Summary

Applicant and applicant's representative wish to thank Examiner Chin for his courtesy during the personal interview conducted on July 22, 2004. During this interview, the rejections of the various claims were discussed, along with the prior art cited against the claims. Examiner Chin agreed that the rejection of claims 18 and 19 was in error and that the rejection of those claims would be withdrawn. Applicant's representative propose to amend claims 1, 13, and 17 substantially as now amended and argued that the prior art relied upon in the Office Action neither discloses nor suggests a triangulated gantry having at least one beam that is linearly extendible to increase the horizontal spacing between two legs of the gantry. After reviewing the prior art references, and particularly the French reference and the Engler reference with applicant's representative, the Examiner agreed that the amended claims would be allowable over the prior art of record.

2. Specification Rejection

The Examiner noted informalities on pages 7 and 11 of the specification. The noted informalities have been corrected by amendment.

3. Rejections Based on Prior Art

Claims 1, 2, 10, 11, and 17 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Gee. Claims 1, 10, and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by French Patent No. 2597460 (the French patent). Claims 1, 11, and 16 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Engler. Claims 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over the French patent.

As indicated in Section 1 above, Examiner Chin agrees that all of these rejections have been overcome by the amendments to claims 1, 13, and 17. No further discussion of these rejections therefore is believed to be required.

4. Allowable Subject Matter and Conclusions


The indication of the allowability of claims 3-9 and 14-16 is noted with appreciation. Because claims 1, 2, 10-13, and 17-20 are now believed to be in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed above, allowance of all claims and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are believed to be in order and are respectfully requested. Should there be any remaining questions the attending to of which would expedite such action,

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the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

A check in the amount of \$55.00 is enclosed in payment of the fee associated with a request for a one-month's extension of time by a *small* entity, which applicant hereby makes. Should the Examiner consider any additional fees to be payable in conjunction with this or any future communication, the Director is authorized to direct payment of such fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1170.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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